

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02914 262215 Z

40

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

NSF-04 SCI-06 OST-04 RSR-01 /145 W
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R 262040 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1830

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USUN NEW YORK 443

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 2914

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, AR, BR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA REJECTS BRAZILIAN INTERPRETATION OF
UN ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION

REF: BUENOS AIRES A-190

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON APRIL 25 THE GOA FONOFF RELEASED THE
TEXT OF A STRONGLY- WORDED NOTE TO PRESIDENT OF RIVER PLATE BASIN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE DATED APRIL 18 WHICH
DEALS WITH THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING BRAZIL'S
ANNOUNCED PLANS TO FLOOD THE RESERVOIR BEHIND THE DAM AT
SOLTEIRA ISLAND. NOTE IS OFFICIAL GOA RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER
BRAZILIAN NOTE AND REITERATES THE ARGENTINE POSITION THAT BRAZIL
HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE TERMS OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION
CONCERNING PRIOR NOTIFICATION ON PROJECTS INVOLVING USE OF
NATURAL RESOURCES. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL REPORTEDLY
HAS BEEN CALLED TO BUENOS AIRES FOR CONSULTATIONS WHICH PRE-
SUMABLY WILL INCLUDE THE CONTROVERSY OVER DAMS IN THE RIVER
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 02914 262215 Z

PLATE BASIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 25 THE GOA FONOFF RELEASED THE TEXT OF A NOTE DATED APRIL 18 CONCERNING THE BRAZILIAN SOLTEIRA ISLAND PROJECT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMITE INTERGUBERNAMENTAL COORDINADOR DE LOS PAISES DE LA CUENCA DEL PLATA (CIC) FROM THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR JULIO BARBERIS. THE NOTE IS ARGENTINA' S RESPONSE TO AN APRIL 1 NOTE FROM THE GOB TO THE CIC (REPORTED IN REFAIR), AND, IN STRONG LANGUAGE, REITERATES GOA CLAIMS THAT BRAZIL HAS NOT LIVED UP TO TERMS OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION.

3. LATEST NOTE ATTACKS THE BRAZILIAN POSITION ON DAM PROJECT ON TWO FRONTS. FIRST, THE GOA REJECTS AS UNACCEPTABLE THE GOB' S INTERPRETATION OF THE UN RESOLUTION AS APPLIED IN THE SOLTEIRA ISLAND CASE. BRAZIL, ALLEGES ARGENTINA, MADE A UNILATERAL DETERMINATION THAT THE FILLING OF THE RESERVOIR WOULD HAVE NO DELETERIOUS EFFECTS DOWN RIVER. CARRYING THIS ERRONEOUS VIEW OF THE RESOLUTION A STEP FARTHER, ARGENTINA CHARGES, BRAZIL AS AN INTERESTED PARTY, COULD CONTINUE TO MAKE SUCH UNILATERAL DECISIONS, AND THE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE UN RESOLUTION WOULD NEVER BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY, SECONDLY, THE GOA REPEATED ITS CLAIM THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT NEVER COMMUNICATED FORMALLY TO ARGENTINA ITS DECISION TO BEGIN FILLING THE RESERVOIR. IN ARGENTINA' S VIEW, NEITHER TWO INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS NOR PUBLICATION OF THE GOB' S PLAN IN A NEWSPAPER (BOTH ARE CITED IN THE NOTE) QUALIFY AS THE TYPE OF FORMAL PRIOR NOTIFICATION ENVISIONED IN THE UN RESOLUTION.

4. MORNING APRIL 26 PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL, JOSE MARIA ALVAREZ DE TOLEDO, HAS BEEN CALLED TO BUENOS AIRES ON CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY INCLUDE THE THORNY ISSUE OF DAM CONSTRUCTION IN THE RIVER PLATE BASIN. LODGE

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